

Nebraska Broadband Planning Project

Broadband Planning Proposal submitted through Nebraska Public Service Commission to U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission Community Council (NITC), University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL), and Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) will cooperatively address the broadband planning needs of Nebraska's communities. The NITC Community Council was identified as the advisory organization for the planning activities.

Approach

Project partners will identify barriers to the adoption of broadband and IT services, create and facilitate local technology planning teams, and collaborate with broadband service providers to encourage broadband deployment and use through the following approaches:

- **Nebraskans will be surveyed** about their computer and Internet usage, challenges and desires for the future.
- **Regional planning teams** will be formed to conduct regional assessments, prioritize needs, and develop strategies to address needs.
- **Regional forums** will be conducted to present broadband mapping and mail survey results, to solicit feedback, and to kick off regional planning efforts.
- **Businesses will be surveyed** through the Business Retention and Expansion process to identify the strengths and challenges they face in utilizing technology.
- Seven to 10 **focus groups will be held** with anchor institutions and utility providers as well as populations with low usage rates to gain understanding into the barriers from their perspective.
- Use of the Internet and computers will be encouraged through **demonstration workshops and training** in collaboration with the broadband service providers and information technology companies.
- **Regional technology plans as well as a statewide report and recommendations will be developed** and presented to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission, Nebraska Public Service Commission, Department of Economic Development and University of Nebraska Lincoln. These plans will be made publicly available through the project website.